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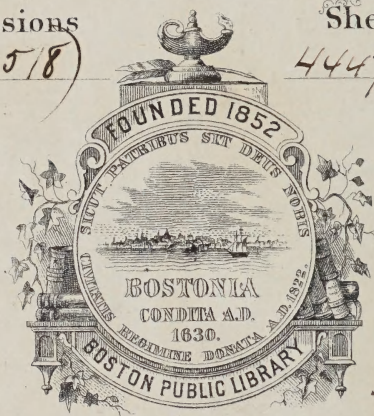
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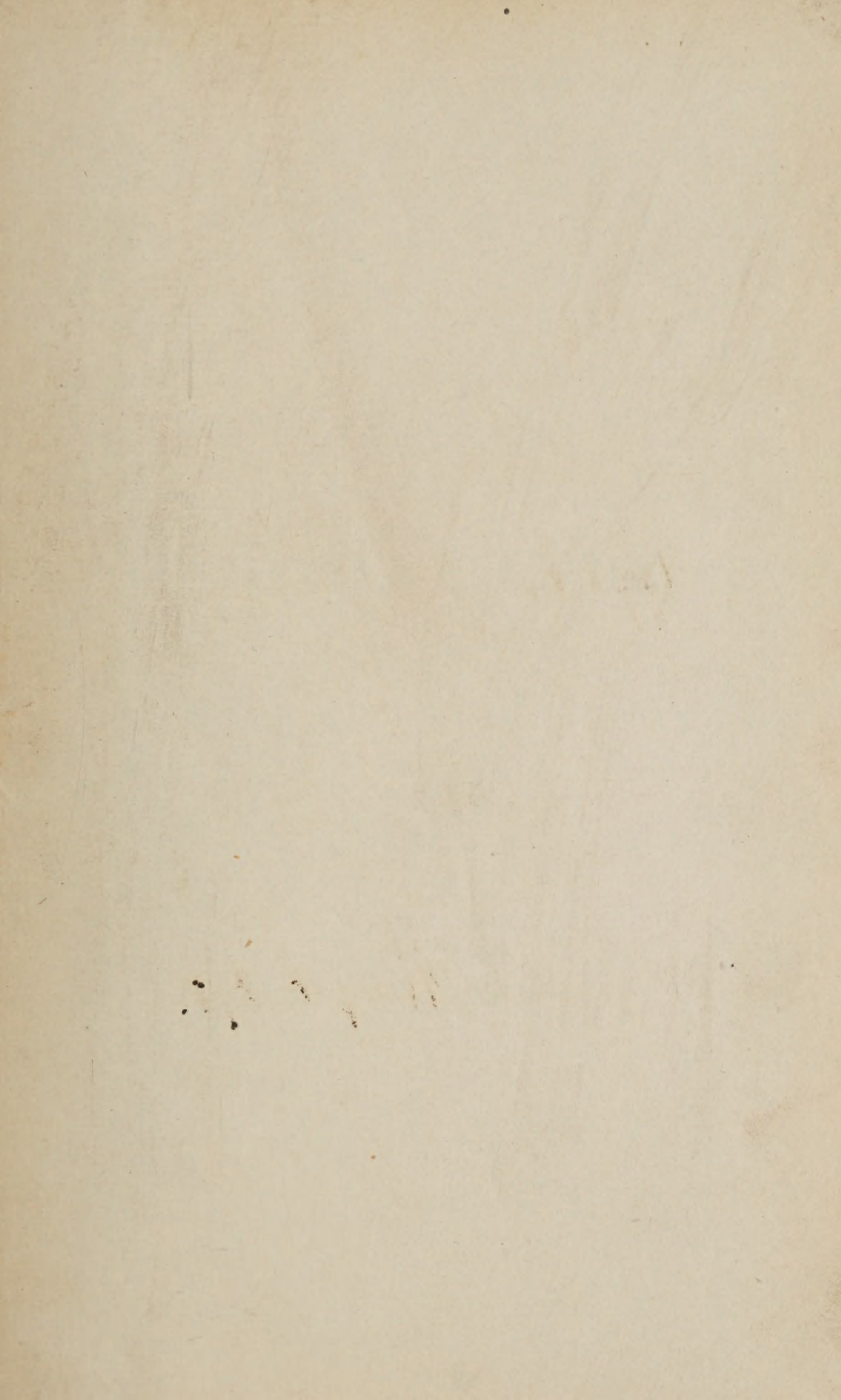
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Received.

May 10, 1897.



Caleb Pratt July 21/63

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MEMORIAL
OF
COMMANDER E. LANIER, U. S. N.
TO THE
SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE
UNITED STATES.

1863.

*To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives
of the United States, in Congress assembled :*

The Memorial of EDMUND LANIER, a Commander in the Navy of the United States, respectfully represents, that, By the action of the late Advisory Board, the name of Commander E. Lanier has been omitted in the list of officers recommended for further promotion.

Commander E. Lanier has been in the Navy thirty-two years, twenty-six years and a half of this time in active service, and over sixteen of that at sea.

For this period of thirty-two years his record at the Department shows that he has never been suspended, arrested, or even reprimanded, and in no case has any complaint been made of his conduct.

Since 1848 to the present time, a period of fifteen years, he has never been off duty on account of his health, but three months.

The only officer of the Advisory Board with whom he has ever sailed is Captain William H. Gardner, on board the Frigates "Colorado," and "Roanoke," on both of which vessels Lieut. Lanier was the Executive officer.

On inquiring at the Department on the 15th of August, 1862, if any report had been made against him from those vessels, he was informed, after the dispatches had been overhauled, that there had been none; but he was furnished with a concluding paragraph of an official dispatch of Flag Officer McIntosh, to the Secretary of the Navy: "I regret that I shall lose the valuable services of Lieut. Lanier in the squadron. Having known him from the commencement of his service in the Navy, I was gratified in finding

him the Executive of the "Colorado" upon hoisting my flag, since when his conduct has met my entire approbation."

His two cruises, previous to this, were made, one with Commodore Paulding, now Rear Admiral, in the Frigate "St. Lawrence," on a cruise to the North Sea and Baltic; the other with Commodore Perry, in the "Mississippi," on the Japan Expedition, at which time he was for two years Executive officer. Commodore Perry is dead, and Sidney Lee, the Commander of the vessel, is in the rebel service, so he has no letters from them.

His last sea-service has been in the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron, under Rear Admiral Dupont. He was commissioned as Commander by President Lincoln, by and with the consent of the Senate, on the 5th of August, 1861, immediately applied for sea-service, and was ordered to the U. S. Ship "Alabama," which vessel he commanded from August, 1861, until August 3d, 1862. In what manner he performed his duty, you can judge from the accompanying letters of Rear Admiral Davis, Acting Admiral Lardner, Commodore Bell, and Captain Marchand.

He would also state that, from the 25th of December, 1858, until August 3d, 1862, he was on continuous duty, ashore or afloat, without one day's leave of absence.

On the 15th of September, five weeks after his return, on applying for active service, he was ordered to the command of the U. S. Receiving Ship "Ohio," at Boston.

He furnishes herewith, a copy of a letter from the Secretary of the Navy, in answer to one from him, complaining of the action of the Board.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, }
11th Sept. 1863. }

SIR:

In reply to your letter of the 2d inst., complaining of the action of the Advisory Board, in not recommending you for further promotion, you are informed that I knew not the causes

which influenced the Board, nor that your name had been omitted, until the report was made. The Board have made no record of their reasons in any case of omission.

I am, respectfully,

Your obdt. servt.,

(Signed,)

GIDEON WELLES,

Secretary of the Navy.

COMM'R E. LANIER, U. S. N. }
Washington, D. C. }

NAVY YARD, NEW YORK, }
Sept. 17th, 1862. }

MY DEAR SIR:

I duly received your favor of the 15th inst., and most cheerfully bear testimony to your unexceptionable conduct and character as an officer and gentleman, whilst serving under my command in the frigate St. Lawrence, from 1848 to 1851. With my best wishes for your health and happiness,

I remain your friend,

And most obdt. servt.,

(Signed,)

H. PAULDING,

Rear Admiral.

COMM'R E. LANIER, }
U. S. Navy. }

FLAG SHIP ST. LAWRENCE, }
KEY WEST, Sept. 25th, 1862. }

It gives me much pleasure to state that the conduct of Commander Edmund Lanier, while serving with me at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, at the commencement of the war, was zealous

and exemplary, and that, while employed together in the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron, I always found the "Alabama," under his command, in good condition, well prepared for any service, and Commander Lanier prompt and efficient in all his duties.

(Signed,)

I. L. LARDNER,

Commodore Commandg. Eastern Gulf Squadron.

FLAG SHIP EASTPORT, }
HELENA, Sept. 23d, 1862. }

MY DEAR SIR:

In reply to your letter of the 15th inst., it affords me great pleasure to say that you were under my observation and authority from November 1861, to March, 1862, while I was Flag Captain of the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron. During this time I always entertained the highest respect for your character, your correct conduct, and your earnest desire to perform your duty.

Very truly yours,

(Signed,)

C. H. DAVIS,

Commodore Commandg. Western Flotilla.

COMM'R EDMUND LANIER, }
Washington, D. C. }

U. S. STEAMSHIP "BROOKLYN," }
OFF MOBILE BAR, Oct. 21st, 1862. }

DEAR SIR:

I have received your letter of the 15th inst., and confess my surprise upon seeing your name on the catalogue of those not recommended by the Board for promotion. Having known you from your first entrance into the Navy, and having sailed twice with you, and having observed you one year ago fitting the U. S. Steamship "Alabama" for sea, I believe you to be, professionally,

mentally, and morally, qualified for command, and would be glad to hear of your promotion.

I am, very respectfully,

(Signed,)

H. H. BELL,

Commodore.

COMMANDER E. LANIER, *U. S. N.*

BALTIMORE, *Sept. 16th, 1862.*

DEAR SIR:

Your note of yesterday was received, and I am pleased to be able to give my testimony to your attention to duty, and most prompt execution of orders whilst you were in command of the U. S. Steamer "Alabama," in the division of Admiral Dupont's squadron, under my charge, before Charleston, S. C. Your vigilance then showed your ability for command, and I most sincerely hope that your health will soon be restored, to enable you to receive a command.

Truly yours,

(Signed,)

J. B. MARCHAND,

Capt. U. S. N.

COMM'R E. LANIER, *U. S. N.*

The records of the Navy Department will prove the truth of this memorial, and the foregoing letters are true copies of originals in my possession.

All of which is respectfully submitted, with the prayer that Congress will take such action on the Law that constituted the Advisory Board, that his wrongs may be redressed and justice done.

Respectfully your obt. servant,

E. LANIER,

Commander.

On or about the 15th of September, five weeks after his arrival from the Charleston Blockading Squadron, Commander Lanier reported himself for duty and applied for service, stating at the same time, that he preferred sea-service. He was at once ordered to the Receiving Ship "Ohio," at Boston, of which vessel he took command a few days afterwards.

On the 28th of October he addressed the following letter to the Navy Department:

[COPY.]

U. S. REC. SHIP "OHIO," }
BOSTON, Oct. 28th, 1862. }

SIR:

As it has been erroneously alleged that the condition of my health disqualified me for active duty at sea, and for promotion, I respectfully ask that a Medical Board may be directed to examine and report as to my physical fitness for the duties of my profession.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

Your obdt. servt.,

(Signed,)

E. LANIER,
Commander.

HON. GIDEON WELLES, }
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C. }

To this letter he received the following reply:

[COPY.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, }
31st October, 1862. }

SIR:

As it is not contemplated by the Department to employ you on sea duty, the survey requested in your letter of the 28th inst. is not considered necessary.

Very respectfully,

(Signed,)

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

COMMANDER E. LANIER, }
U. S. R. Ship Ohio, Boston, Mass. }

(Nov., 1891, 20,000)

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